

Trump under fire over plans for cyber security unit with Russia

DONALD Trump said yesterday that he talked about forming an “impenetrable cyber security unit” with Vladimir Putin to protect against the hacking of elections.

Mr Trump said that he discussed the move at last week’s G20 talks, even though his own intelligence agencies believe the Kremlin launched a cyber attack on the American election system in 2016.

Mr Trump said that Mr Putin “vehemently denied” meddling in the election and that it was time to work “constructively” with him.

Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who ran against Mr Trump for the presidency, led the attacks: “Partnering with Putin on a ‘Cyber

From **Daniel Bates** in New York

Security Unit’ is akin to partnering with President Assad on a ‘Chemical Weapons Unit’.”

Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, which is investigating the hacking of the election, said: “We might as well mail our ballot boxes to Moscow.”

Senior Republican Senator John McCain said that Mr Putin “could offer enormous assistance” about cyber security, because “he is the one doing the hacking”.

And Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said Mr Trump is “the only person I know of who doesn’t believe Russia attacked our election in 2016”.



Mr Trump... anti-hacking move

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Mr Trump... anti-hacking move

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May: I’ll be bold and brave for Britain

THERESA May will tomorrow try to rebuild her authority by promising to tackle Britain’s biggest problems with “renewed courage and vigour”.

The Prime Minister will also challenge Opposition parties to come up with their own ideas – and say she is ready to consider them.

That may be seen as an admission that her minority Government needs Labour support to get a satisfactory Brexit through the Commons.

She may also be recognising criticism of her for not consulting widely enough about controversial policies, such as the deeply unpopular “dementia tax” social care package.

But one source painted her invitation to other parties as a simple statement that long-term issues of national importance can only be solved with all parties engaging rather than just criticising.

Mrs May’s speech comes nearly a year after she officially became Prime Minister on July 13 last year.

She is fighting off internal attacks and calls to quit after the election humiliatingly robbed the Tories of their Commons majority.

She has a deal with the Democratic Unionists to prop up her Government in key votes but some will still be on a knife-edge thanks to a vocal minority of anti-Brexit Tory MPs on her own side.

At tomorrow’s launch of a report she ordered last year on improving workers’ rights, she will seek to convince colleagues to let her take forward her premiership.

She will recall saying on becoming PM that the referendum vote was a call for profound change in Britain, not just to leave the European Union.

She had also then pledged to create a country that “works for everyone, not just a privileged few” and to take the hard decisions needed to make Britain stronger and able to seize the opportunities ahead.

“And though the result of last month’s General Election was not what I wanted, those defining beliefs remain,” she is expected to tell her audience. “My commitment to change in Britain is undimmed; my belief in the potential of the British people and what we can achieve together as a

‘My commitment to change in Britain remains undimmed’

and discussion – the hallmarks of our Parliamentary democracy – ideas can be clarified and improved and a better way forward found. It is in that spirit that we will take this agenda forward in the months ahead.”

“The Government also now have a wider choice, to be timid or bold. We can play it safe or we can strike out with renewed courage and vigour, making the case for our ideas and values and challenging our opponents to contribute, not just criticise.

“I think this country needs a Government that is prepared to take the bold action necessary to secure a better future for Britain and we are determined to be that Government.

“In everything we do, we will act with an unshakeable sense of purpose to build the better, fairer Britain which we all want to see.”

LEO MCKINSTRY: PAGE 12

‘SCANDAL’ OF £3.5 BILLION IN LOST BENEFITS

TAXPAYERS’ money overpaid through fraud and error in the benefits system rose again last year, hitting an estimated £3.5billion. Critics blamed staff cuts and urged ministers to “get a grip”. The Department for Work and Pensions’ report for 2016-17 said errors and fraud were inevitable in a complex system which paid out £91.6billion in state pensions and £82.4billion on welfare benefits. Labour’s former welfare minister

Frank Field, set to be re-elected chair of the Commons’ Work and Pensions Committee, said: “They have no idea how much money they are losing. I believe the real figure could be even higher”. Dame Margaret Hodge, former chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said: “It is an absolute scandal that at a time when they are cutting benefits and services, the Government is throwing billions of pounds away. Ministers need to get a grip.”



Mr Lidington... backed the PM

Leadership

SENIOR Conservatives yesterday urged colleagues to stop their “self-indulgent gossip” about overthrowing Theresa May and focus instead on tackling voters’ real concerns.

Justice Secretary David Lidington blamed “too much sun and warm prosecco” for a rash of Tory chat about the Prime Minister’s prospects after the disastrous election campaign left her with a minority administration.

His comments came after former chief whip Andrew Mitchell refused to deny he told fellow MPs that Mrs May had “lost her

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Prime Minister May and her husband Philip attending church in her constituency yesterday

gossip caused by ‘too much sun and warm prosecco’

By **Alison Little**

authority” and could not go on. Mr Mitchell, a close ally of potential future leader David Davis, the Brexit Secretary, said: “This is an overheated report of a private dinner conversation.”

Another Davis supporter urged Mrs May to give her party conference in October a date for her departure.

Some MPs envisage a painless coronation for Mr Davis but others fear change risks an election that Jeremy Corbyn could win.

Mr Mitchell himself is reported to have told

MPs urging Mr Davis to run to “go and lie down in a darkened room and then take a holiday”.

Meanwhile, some opponents of the Brexit Secretary accuse his supporters of trying to demoralise the PM by spreading rumours about a growing number of MPs wanting her gone.

The Justice Secretary dismissed the rumours as “gossip”.

Mr Lidington told BBC1’s Andrew Marr Show: “Summer parties are the key to this. “I have been in Parliament 25 years and almost every July a combination of too much

Outrage as Cable says: I’m beginning to think Brexit may never happen

By **Alison Little**

VINCE CABLE yesterday sparked fury by claiming Brexit may not happen.

The Lib Dem said his party would work with others to fight a “disastrous hard Brexit – leaving the customs union and single market”.

But the man who is tipped to replace Tim Farron as leader of the pro-EU party told The Andrew Marr Show: “I’m beginning to think that Brexit may never happen.

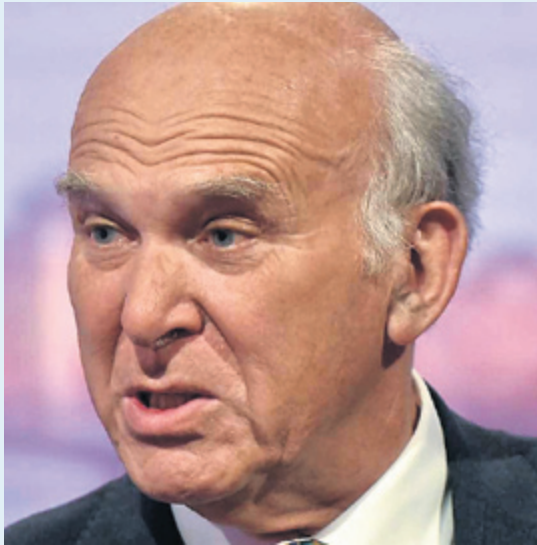
“The problems are so enormous, the divisions within the two main parties are so enormous, I can see a scenario in which this doesn’t happen.”

Furious Conservatives accused him of going against the will of the British people.

Former Cabinet minister Owen Paterson said: “I’m afraid Vince is behind history, we are going to leave, we are on target. Eighty-five per cent of the electorate voted for parties that want to leave the European Union.

“If we do not deliver a proper Brexit, which means leaving the single market, leaving the customs union and leaving the jurisdiction of the ECJ (European Court of Justice) and taking back control, as we made very clear in the referendum, there will be absolutely appalling damage to the integrity of the whole establishment – not just political, the media and the judicial establishment.”

Damien Moore, who beat the Lib Dems to win Southport for the Tories for the first time since 1997, said:



Mr Cable on TV yesterday claiming problems raised by Britain leaving the EU and divisions within the Tory and Labour parties could lead to the death of Brexit

“What Sir Vince said fundamentally goes against the will of the British people in a decision that was only taken a year ago. I think he is talking up supposed splits so that decision is not reached.

“What is clear from the General Election is the parties of leave achieved more votes and the Prime Minister is still more trusted to deliver a good Brexit deal.”

It comes as Theresa May is expected to resist cross-party demands to soften her clean-break Brexit formula.

Ex-Tory ministers attacked her insistence on cutting links to the ECJ. And one joined Labour in criticising plans to leave the EU civil nuclear energy watchdog, Euratom.

Debate is intensifying as the Government prepares to

publish the Repeal Bill on Thursday, which sets out the legal framework for Britain to quit the EU.

Earlier, Tory former Attorney General Dominic Grieve and ex-Education Secretary Nicky Morgan criticised Mrs May’s firm intention that the ECJ must have no sway in Britain after Brexit.

Mr Grieve said: “I’ve never been particularly impressed with it [the ECJ] but the fact is it is there and it’s going to be doing a lot of work that is relevant to us.” Mrs Morgan said: “There may be some merit in just thinking about the detail of our future relationship with the ECJ before we draw a line through the relationship entirely.”

With Labour and the Lib Dems agreeing there are areas where the ECJ should continue to have a role, Mrs May’s minority government faces the real prospect of defeat in the Commons.

Some MPs fear her approach will force Britain out of some EU bodies where it should stay, simply because theoretically the ECJ has the last word in disputes.

OPINION: PAGE 12

DAILY EXPRESS VOTE

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